

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA  
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER AND LAND**

**Tuesday, August 29, 2017  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 40  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION TO THE DEPUTY TO  
THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL  
RESOURCE  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE  
ROBERT K. MASUDA  
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-03-2018**

**The Department of Land and Natural Resources strongly supports Governor's Message 40 nominating Robert K. Masuda to serve as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to expire on December 3, 2018.**

DLNR welcomes back a familiar face to its 'ohana. Mr. Masuda previously served as DLNR's Deputy Director from May 2005 to May 2007.

Mr. Masuda is a graduate of George Williams College where he got his B.S. in Applied Behavioral Science & Group Work Education. He also received an Executive M.B.A. from the University of Hawaii. For much of his career, Mr. Masuda worked for the YMCA, in a number of leadership positions including executive director and president. Mr. Masuda also previously served as the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation with the City and County of Honolulu, Senior Advisor in the Natural & Cultural Resources Planning Office of the Vice President for Research, University of Hawaii, Special Assistant to University of Hawaii President David McClain, and most recently, Senior Advisor for Special Programs Development at the Institute for Pacific Islands Forestry, Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Masuda is well-respected across the State. He has an extensive experience dealing with people and issues. During his prior time as the Deputy Director, he exhibited excellent leadership skills and brought a lot of positive energy to DLNR. His ability to listen and communicate is widely recognized. DLNR is confident that Mr. Masuda will bring back those same leadership skills, energy, analytical skills, clear sense of purpose, and passion for natural and cultural resource protection and education.

The Department respectfully requests this Committee's favorable consideration of Mr. Robert K. Masuda as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



RODERICK K. BECKER  
Comptroller  
AUDREY HIDANO  
Deputy Comptroller

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES**

P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF  
RODERICK K. BECKER, COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
WATER AND LAND

AUGUST 29, 2017  
2:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

G.M. 40

SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DEPUTY TO THE  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, ROBERT MASUDA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE  
12-03-2018.

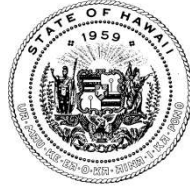
Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the confirmation of Robert Masuda as the  
Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. The Department  
of Accounting and General Services supports the confirmation of Mr. Masuda.

Mr. Masuda's considerable and varied experience includes prior service as Deputy to the  
Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Mr. Masuda's experience and  
background will be a significant asset in assisting with the execution of the responsibilities of the  
Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**LATE**

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

August 29, 2017  
2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 224

**G.M. 40**

**Submitting for consideration and confirmation as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Gubernatorial Nominee, ROBERT MASUDA, for a term to expire 12-03-2018.**

Senate Committee on Water and Land

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly **supports** Robert Masuda as Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Mr. Masuda received his Executive M.B.A. from the University of Hawaii and has been with the YMCA for 55 years. The DOT believes Mr. Masuda is an excellent choice, having served as the First Deputy to DLNR in 2005-2007 along with his work with the Institute for Pacific Islands Forestry, United States Department of Agriculture.

The DOT and DLNR's coordinated approach has been essential to our success in reducing the further introduction of invasive species into the state. The DOT, DLNR, and Mr. Matsuda share the important goal of *malama 'aina*. We look forward to working with him to ensure that we are as unflinching as possible under our respective statutory authorities to protect the state's land and natural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**Testimony by:**  
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
JADE T. BUTAY  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWN H. SNIFFEN  
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:



**Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Aha Moku Advisory Committee  
State of Hawaii  
Post Office Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of  
Leimana DaMate

Before the Senate Committee on  
Water and Land

Tuesday, August 29, 2017  
2:00 P.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

**In Consideration of  
GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE 40  
SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION AS DEPUTY TO THE  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, ROBERT MASUDA, FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 12-03-2018**

Gubernatorial Nominee, Robert Masuda, is submitted for consideration and confirmation as the Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), for a term to expire 12-03-2018.

Many participants in the Aha Moku System support this nominee. The Aha Moku System encompasses the eight main Hawaiian Islands and supports the traditional and generational knowledge of the people who are connected to each of the 46 moku and 606 ahupua'a. The system was brought forward by John Kaimikaua, a noted Moloka'i historian through translations of ancient oral chants from the 9th century, a time where sustainability and protection of resources ensured existence. It was a time where the focus of the people of the land was on survival. Those resource practices were handed down through the generations and many are still used today. The Aha Moku today is centered around sharing that knowledge with those who are now part of ahupua'a communities – the focus is on natural and cultural resource sustainability that is site-specific. Communities take care of the resources where they live.

Mr. Masuda is ideally suitable for the important task of bridging traditional practices with contemporary government policy. This is critically important to the Aha Moku because as a process, it is now symbiotically attached to DLNR.

Mr. Masuda has a strong background in community advocacy. He is also familiar with how DLNR functions. He is approachable, intelligent and has a deep love for Hawaii and its resources. He works well with all different types and groups of people and sees all the different aspects of an issue. He has a natural affinity for people in general, and a strong love for Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony and we ask that this committee accept and confirm Robert Masuda as the Deputy to the Chairperson of DLNR. Mahalo nui loa!

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [mnahoopii@kirc.hawaii.gov](mailto:mnahoopii@kirc.hawaii.gov)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for GM40 on Aug 29, 2017 14:00PM (Written Only)\*  
**Date:** Monday, August 28, 2017 9:01:42 PM

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**LATE**

**GM40**

Submitted on: 8/28/2017

Testimony for on Aug 29, 2017 14:00PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testifying in Person
Michael Nahoopii	KIRC	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**From:** [Ingersoll, Anthony - NRCS, Honolulu, HI](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony on Mr. Bob Masuda  
**Date:** Monday, August 28, 2017 10:01:47 AM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

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Dear Hawaii Senate Water and Land Committee:

As the Assistant Director for Natural Resource Technology for the key conservation technical assistance agency to private landowners and operators here in Hawaii, the USDA NRCS, I can say with direct, first-hand experience that working with Bob has proven highly beneficial to us, particularly with our forest resource concerns. He is an excellent partner in conservation and an invaluable resource on whom I've relied many times regarding forest conservation.

Bob's vast knowledge and experience in Hawaii culture, land uses and conservation issues has helped us as an agency better serve our clients. He's been a great mentor, too, to many of us individually, myself included. His active involvement and leadership with the Hawaii Conservation Alliance and on the Tropical Hardwood Tree Improvement & Regeneration Center has resulted in increased conservation on the land to address many of Hawaii's resource problems.

I have had nothing but very positive experiences working with Bob. I believe he would not only be an ideal candidate for the First Deputy Director at DLNR but his presence there would greatly enhance our partnership and collaboration with DLNR and DOFAW. I do hope you give Bob serious consideration for this important position.

Sincerely,

*Tony Ingersoll*

Anthony H. Ingersoll  
Assistant Director for Natural Resource Technology  
Ecological Sciences Team  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Pacific Islands Area (Hawaii, American Samoa and Micronesia)  
PO Box 50004 (PIJK Fed. Bldg., 300 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 4-118)  
Honolulu, HI 96850-0050  
808-600-2915 (desk); 808-265-2781 (cell); 855-838-6330 (fax)  
[anthony.ingersoll@hi.usda.gov](mailto:anthony.ingersoll@hi.usda.gov) (e-mail)



U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service

[www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.pia.nrcs.usda.gov)

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**From:** [Emily Gardner](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Support of Robert Masuda for DLNR First Deputy Director  
**Date:** Monday, August 28, 2017 2:41:00 PM

**LATE**

Dear Members of the Hawaii State Senate:

I am writing in strong support of your confirmation of Robert Masuda for First Deputy Director of DLNR.

For the past year, I have had the pleasure of working with Bob as a member of the Hawaii Conservation Alliance Foundation Board, on which he has served in the capacity as Vice-Chair for several years. Bob is an informed, passionate and active member of Hawaii's conservation community, who I know cares deeply about conserving and restoring Hawaii's biological and cultural resources. He has served as Senior Advisor to the U.S. Forest Service, Institute of Pacific Forestry, on Hawaii island, and, at the City & County of Honolulu's Department of Parks and Recreation. In addition to his experience in conservation, Bob has been the President/CEO of the YMCA of Honolulu and Executive Director of its International Division.

Bob's combination of business acumen and appreciation of several pressing conservation, cultural, and land use issues currently facing Hawaii make him an excellent choice to serve as the First Deputy Director of the Department.

Bob is a true leader and I strongly endorse his candidacy and support full Senate confirmation.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Gardner

--

**EMILY GARDNER**  
Executive Director  
**Hawaii Conservation Alliance Foundation**  
160! East-West Road, #2042  
Honolulu, HI 96848  
Tel: (808) 944-7415  
Email: [egardner@hawaiiconservation.org](mailto:egardner@hawaiiconservation.org)

Audrey Hidano  
1620 Hau Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
August 26, 2017

Testimony to the Committee on Water and Land (WTL)  
Tuesday, August 29, 2017  
2:00 pm  
State Capitol – Conference Room 224

Re: GM 40 Gubernatorial Nominee, Robert K. Masuda for  
consideration and confirmation as the First Deputy to the  
Chairperson, Department of Land and Natural Resources

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Committee:

My name is Audrey Hidano and I am in STRONG SUPPORT of Robert K. Masuda whose name is being submitted for consideration and confirmation to be the First Deputy to the Chairperson for the Department Land and Natural Resources. I've known Mr. Masuda for many years, having the opportunity to work with him as Deputy to the Chairperson at DLNR previously (2005-2007), working together many years as volunteer board members for the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) and distant family associations. In all of my dealings with Mr. Masuda, I've found him to be extremely helpful. He comes with a wealth of experience, knowledge and information from previously working in State government. Mr. Masuda always demonstrates sound judgement and dedication to his work.

I truly believe Mr. Masuda will be an asset to DLNR. Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony for this Governor's Message.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Kenekoa/Senator Karl Rhoads, Luna Ho‘omalu/Chair  
Kenekoa/Senator Mike Gabbard, Hope Luna Ho‘omalu/Vice Chair

Testimony submitted by Allen Allison

**Monday 28 August 2017**

CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION OF ROBERT MASUDA AS FIRST DEPUTY,  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Senator Karl Rhoads, Senator Mike Gabbard, and distinguished members of the Hawai‘i Senate Committee on Water and Land, my name is Allen Allison. I am the Director of Natural Sciences at the Bishop Museum and a member of the University of Hawai‘i Graduate Faculty, but I am providing this testimony as a private individual in favor of Bob Masuda’s appointment as First Deputy of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

I strongly support the appointment of Bob Masuda as First Deputy of DLNR. He has a keen mind and is an outstanding strategic thinker. He has for well over a decade been a major force in efforts by the Hawaii Conservation Alliance to advance the protection of Hawaii’s unique natural heritage. In particular he is a consensus builder with an amazing ability to work with a variety of stakeholders. He is also one the nicest people that I know.

Bob Masuda is a skilled administrator and is always well informed. He is certain to take a fair and open-minded approach to all issues. He is not afraid of controversy but has an impressive ability to sort out controversial issues.

Hawaii’s highly endangered biota needs all the help that it can get. Suzanne Case is doing an outstanding job as head of DLNR but she needs additional administrative and strategic support. Bob Masuda can clearly provide that. I know that they will function as a strong and effective team.

I strongly recommend that you give favorable consideration to confirming Bob Masuda’s appointment as First Deputy of DLNR. I can think of no one better!

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

With best regards, I am,

Cordially yours,



Allen Allison PhD

Douglas Meller  
2615 Aaliamanu Place  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
douglasmeller@gmail.com

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 40 DATED 8/24/17  
NOMINATION OF ROBERT MASUDA AS DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRPERSON, DLNR**

**THIS TESTIMONY SUBMITTED FOR THE 2 PM 8/29/17 PUBLIC HEARING OF THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND IN STATE CAPITOL CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**Before you act on this nomination, please show Mr. Masuda the 3 Attachments to this testimony and ask what future actions he believes the DLNR should take concerning commercial storage on public beaches under state jurisdiction.** Attachment 1 is a 3/4/13 email in which DLNR staff state that storage of unrented commercial equipment is prohibited on public beaches under DLNR jurisdiction. Attachment 2 is 6/6/16 letter which asks whether the DLNR still has jurisdiction to regulate storage of unrented commercial equipment on the public beach makai of Fort DeRussy. (The State Ombudsman has repeatedly, unsuccessfully requested a DLNR response.) Attachment 3 is an 8:30 am 12/28/16 picture of unrented commercial equipment and permanent commercial beach stands stored on public beaches makai of the Waikiki Shore Hotel and Fort DeRussy.

Mahalo for your kokua.

**ATTACHMENT I**

On Mon, Mar 4, 2013 at 8:09 AM, <[Meghan.L.Statts@hawaii.gov](mailto:Meghan.L.Statts@hawaii.gov)> wrote:  
Doug,

In response to your questions, both of the answers are no. No commercial business is supposed to store anything on State beach at anytime.

Meghan

From: Douglas Meller <[douglasmeller@gmail.com](mailto:douglasmeller@gmail.com)>  
To: [Meghan.L.Statts@hawaii.gov](mailto:Meghan.L.Statts@hawaii.gov)  
Cc: "Deborah L. Ward" <[Deborah.L.Ward@hawaii.gov](mailto:Deborah.L.Ward@hawaii.gov)>  
Date: 03/01/2013 02:07 PM  
Subject: two questions about commercial uses of public lands

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1. Does DLNR consider it permissible for a commercial enterprise to store commercial-recreational equipment on public lands between the times when the equipment is rented? Let me give a specific example. About 8:15 am this morning, while walking on the beach, I saw a tourist using/renting a commercial water tricycle in the ocean makai of Ft. DeRussy and a similar commercial water tricycle stored on public lands (the beach) mauka of Kalia Relief Drain. About 9 am this morning, while walking on the same beach, I saw the same two commercial water tricycles stored on public lands (the beach) mauka of Kalia Relief Drain. About 10 am this morning, I saw the same two commercial water tricycles stored in the same position on public lands (the beach) mauka of Kalia Relief Drain. Obviously, commercial-recreational equipment is being stored on public lands between the times when the equipment is rented.

2. Does DLNR consider it permissible for a commercial enterprise to store commercial-recreational equipment on public lands for several hours in anticipation of a future rental? Let me give a specific example. About 9 am this morning, while walking on the beach, I saw several rows of commercial beach umbrellas and chairs stored on public lands (the beach) makai of the Outrigger Hotel. Most of these commercial beach chairs were unoccupied. A sign which read "Reserved for 5 pm" had been placed on one of the commercial umbrellas and 2 of the unoccupied commercial chairs. Rental of this equipment was anticipated - - but not immediately.

## ATTACHMENT 2

Douglas Meller  
2615 Aaliamanu Place  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
douglasmeller@gmail.com

June 16, 2016

Suzanne D. Case  
Chairperson, Board of Land and Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

Dear Ms. Case:

Subject: Storage of Commercial Beach Chairs on the Public Beach Makai of Fort DeRussy

As of June 16, 2016, is it the responsibility of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) or is it the responsibility of the City and County of Honolulu (City) to regulate the daytime storage of unrented commercial beach chairs on the public beach makai of Fort

DeRussy? Has the DLNR authorized the City to regulate the daytime storage of unrented commercial beach chairs on the public beach makai of Fort DeRussy?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas Meller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Douglas Meller

**ATTACHMENT 3**



08/28/17

Chair Karl Rhoads, Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Vice-Chair Mike Gabbard  
Members of Senate Committee on Water and Land

Aloha Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

I am in strong support of Robert Masuda and his appointment as first deputy at the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Robert has a long history of service to Hawaii and the experience to manage a large department such as DLNR. His resume speaks to the volume of service in leadership and administrative roles but he is also a man of great integrity and dedication.

Having known Mr. Masuda for a couple of years now I have seen how he invests much of his own time to the development and training of others. I believe that in his return to DLNR he will have the opportunity to continue to grow and develop that departments human capital.

Mahalo for your time today,

Scott Fuji

**From:** [Sharon Ziegler-Chong](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony on confirmation hearing for Robert Masuda as DLNR First Deputy  
**Date:** Monday, August 28, 2017 11:12:28 AM

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Please accept this as testimony for Robert Masuda's upcoming confirmation hearing as First Deputy as DLNR. I fully support Bob's nomination. As the Director of the Research and Community Partnerships office at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, I have been the UHH representative on the Hawaii Conservation Alliance (HCA) Steering Committee for six years. In that time I have worked with Bob on many HCA projects and efforts and have gained a full appreciation of his knowledge of and dedication to the state of Hawaii and its natural and cultural landscapes. His long history with forest resources, community development, learning from models and examples from across the world and helping groups develop effective governance make him an excellent person for DLNR's First Deputy. On top of those traits, there are two other points that make him excellent for this role. First, he is straightforward, intolerant of people not pulling their weight and completely transparent in his old-style way. He says what he knows and is always the voice of reason, but states things in a way in which young and experienced people can come together. Secondly, this is not a career move for him--he is not doing this to "get ahead", but rather because he cares about the people and islands of this state and feels he can help things move forward. Bob's leadership is desperately needed within DLNR and I look forward to working with him in that role.

Sharon Ziegler-Chong  
Papaikou, Hawaii



Testimony of  
KEKOA KALUHIWA

Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER AND LAND



Tuesday, August 29, 2017  
2:00 PM  
Room 224

In consideration of  
GOVERNORS MESSAGE 40  
RELATING TO GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE ROBERT MASUDA  
FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

I write in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Mr. Robert Masuda being appointed to serve as Deputy Director of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Robert is an ideal candidate, having previously served in this position and being familiar with both the staff and broad mission of DLNR. In addition, his involvement with various levels of government and active participation in Hawaii's conservation and cultural communities will be an asset to the Department's legislative and community outreach efforts. Robert's long history of civic involvement, easy demeanor, humility, and ability to bridge stakeholders with differing perspectives are attributes that make him a well-respected leader and mentor to many. Hawaii's people and natural resources will be well cared for with Robert returning to serve in this capacity.

Thank you for your consideration of my **STRONG SUPPORT** of Robert Masuda.

Me ke aloha nui,

Kekoa Kaluhiwa

**LATE**

**From:** [Randall Kennedy](#)  
**To:** [WTL Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** \*\*\*\*\*SPAM\*\*\*\*\* Strongly support Bob Masuda's nomination as Deputy Director of DLNR  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 29, 2017 4:40:23 AM

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Sent from my iPhone

TO: Senator Karl Rhodes, Chair  
Senate Committee on Water and Land.  
[senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov)

From: Robert K. Masuda  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Kalanimoku Building  
1155 Punchbowl Avenue, Room 130  
Honolulu, HI 96813

August 18, 2017

Written Statement as requested by Senator Karl Rhodes, Chair, Senate Committee on Water and Land, pursuant to Nomination to the Position of First Deputy to the Chairperson of the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

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**1. Please describe your understanding of the role and jurisdiction of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).**

My understanding of the role & jurisdiction of DLNR is to advance the Mission of DLNR, which is to *"enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawai'i's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawai'i nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors."*

DLNR's role & jurisdiction includes administering the public lands and resources with respect to native Hawaiian issues and concerns, the public land trust obligations, and the recognition of native Hawaiian cultural values that are intrinsically tied to the 'aina.

Generally, duties also involve those functions pursuant to land & marine resources under State jurisdiction consistent with sound management and appreciation for the cultural & natural resource of our host native Hawaiian people.

**2. Please provide your assessment of the strengths and weaknesses of DLNR and its divisions. Please discuss how these strengths may best be utilized and how the weaknesses may be addressed.**

While I'm in the first couple of weeks of my appointment, with the caveat of still being in the process of reorientation and review of organizational strengths and weaknesses, meeting with and becoming acquainted with division leadership & other personnel and such - I would share my sense that our Department is gifted with folks who share a personal affection for DLNR's mission, focus on natural & cultural resources and the stewardship of our 'aina. As we are briefed on such challenges, issues and problems that exist, my style is an inclusive and collaborative one, and one that appreciates the concerns shared by our public. We will be mindful of all credible information as we work with our Division leadership in the improvement of our capacity to serve and the duty to serve with responsibility & dignity.

**3. Please describe your qualifications to serve as the First Deputy to the DLNR Chairperson including any skills, expertise, knowledge, or volunteer involvement that would aid in the execution of your work.**

More than 55 years as a leader in building and operating YMCA organizations in Hawaii, the USA and world, including over 12 years of public service on County, State & Federal levels. YMCA experience included complex international work requiring sensitive negotiations and trouble shooting, often through interpreters, in four continents, the Pacific, Middle East and across the U.S. In Executive positions installed strong budget controls, maintained community and government leader contacts; selected and developed personnel at all supervisory levels; initiated and managed contracts worth many millions of dollars annually; organized management teams at local, metropolitan and national YMCA levels; active in community as board member of a variety of non-profit organizations. Active leadership in post retirement decade in guiding, promoting and advocating for science research, natural and cultural resource advancement.

I believe we are blessed to live as citizens of these islands, and as one who was raised among Hawaiian families in Kaka'ako, O'ahu, and the island of Hawai'i am especially grateful for the experiences of my life... inspiring a sense of duty to serve where possible.

Having had the privilege to serve in a variety of duties, both in professional capacities and as a volunteer leader over a number of years, I've appended my Resume which outlines my background and best provides answers to this question. \* Resume attached.

**4. Please summarize your prior service ten years ago as the First Deputy to the DLNR Chairperson including accomplishments attributable to your leadership. Please discuss how this prior service may influence your current appointment.**

As per my attached Resume, I served as 2<sup>nd</sup> in command of DLNR responsible for the long-term sustainable management, maintenance, protection and utilization of existing and potential ocean, land, natural and cultural resources of the State of Hawaii in an integrated manner and in partnership with others from the public and private sectors. Special assignments included oversight of divisions with challenging issues, DLNR leadership with two critical natural disasters, along with general management assistance to the Chair of all eleven DLNR Divisions & Offices. Active as DLNR representative on the Aloha Tower Development Corporation, State's Agro Business Development Corp., IT Governance Committee, Natural Area Reserve System Commission, and the Hawaii Ass'n. of Conservation Districts. Personal areas of interests within department's initiatives included environmental education, cultural and natural resource protection and relationships, forestry and marine life sustainability.

**5. Please describe what you would like to accomplish as the First Deputy to the DLNR Chairperson.**

Be useful and productive in assisting our Chair in leading & managing our Department. Actively work to advance the priority of this Administration in increasing our State's capacity for sustainability in areas such as watershed protection & food source development, energy, and, long term conservation of our natural resources. As able and assigned, I would appreciate involvement in advancing mutually beneficial partnerships among science and cultural interests. Hopefully, in the process of our work and public service, those with whom I have the opportunity to serve feel that I've been helpful in their own effectiveness as public servants.

**6. Please list all current business and volunteer activities, including service on boards, and note if you intend to discontinue any of these activities if your nomination is confirmed.**

My professional and volunteer activities are listed on my Resume (attached). I've already served notice of resignation with all business/professional & volunteer offices, excepting the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation of which I voluntarily serve as Vice President & Director.

I shall seek advice with our Ethics Commission on whether continued service with the HCA Foundation constitutes a conflict and whether I should also resign from that service. I believe that the HCA Foundation's purpose is consistent with the Mission of DLNR and is a productive partner with our Department and State, such as in the promotion, organization and support for hosting the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Conference. It's quarterly meetings and annual conference provide an active forum for advancing conservation, protection and focus on natural & cultural resources.

7. Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interests involving you that could arise during your service as First Deputy Director to the DLNR Chairperson? How would you address any possible conflicts of interest?

Other than the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation, I have already resigned or gave notice of resignation by August 31<sup>st</sup> to all my professional work and volunteer service, including: US Forest Service & Purdue University appointments as Senior Adviser, Institute for Pacific Islands Forestry and the Tropical Hardwood Tree Improvement & Regeneration Center; President & Director of the Akaka Foundation for Tropical Forests; Hawai'i County Committee on Aging; Hawai'i Community College Hilo Ambassadors Council; Ho'okako'o Corporation Board for Public Conversion Charter Schools; I have termed out from the Board of Directors of the Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (and will complete as a volunteer, a leadership training event this month); I've also termed out from the State Executive Council of AARP Hawai'i (and will discontinue any continuing volunteer service.)

8. Is there any other information regarding your experience and background that you believe should be considered for your nomination?

I'm happy to answer further questions. I think the information provided includes all of my experiences and background relevant in the consideration of my nomination.

Thank you for this opportunity to share information in advance for the Senate confirmation process.

Aloha,



Robert K. Masuda

Attachment: RKM Resume

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*from Office of Sen. Karl Rhoades.*

Your **response by Monday, August 21, 2017** will ensure that the Senate confirmation process can proceed in a timely manner. You may provide your response by email to [senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:senrhoads@capitol.hawaii.gov) or by mail to State Capitol, Room 204, 415 S. Beretania St., Honolulu, HI 96813. My office will be in contact with you about scheduling a one-on-one meeting with me and informing you of the date of the Committee hearing.

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you that any testimony submitted by other individuals on your behalf will be posted on the Legislature's website as submitted. It might be helpful to inform individuals who intend to submit testimony on your nomination of the public nature of the testimony. Testimony may be submitted once the Committee hearing on your nomination is scheduled.

Should you have any questions, please contact my office at 586-6130.